

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council of Farningham held virtually on the 'Zoom' platform on Wednesday 1st April 2020 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllr. D. Burns (Chair)

Cllr. L. Bourne

Cllr. R. Hirons

Cllr. P. McGarvey (District Councillor)

Cllr. C. Salmon

Cllr. K. Shanmuganathan

Cllr. G. Williams

Mrs. J. Gray (Clerk)

1. Chairman's Welcome, Apologies for absence:

The Chair welcomed six Parish Councillors which included the District Councillor P. McGarvey and the County Councillor, Roger Gough, who joined at the beginning of the meeting.

2. Declaration of Interests:

The declarations of interest stood as previously recorded in May 2019. Councillors were asked to inform the Clerk should they have any changes

3. County Councillor:

The County Councillor, R. Gough advised:

1. A drainage team had worked for a week to try and resolve flooding occurring at Eynsford Road/South Hall Close; the drains which were very dirty had been cleansed. It appears there is pipework missing. The investigative work would be continued although with caveats due to staff missing because of the current coronavirus lockdown.
2. Regarding the problem with a blocked chamber in drains by Bridge Cottage, High Street, and following Kent Highways attendance on 16th March further investigation of the drainage in the area had confirmed they did not believe the chamber in question actually formed part of the highway system; therefore it would not be their responsibility to maintain. However, as a gesture of goodwill the KHS Officer, Earl Bourner, had agreed that they will fully empty the chamber to confirm what water it drains and from where. To empty the chamber, it will require a much larger vehicle so a 28 day order has been raised and with the roads being quieter than usual, they hope to be able to complete the work, though have warned the appointed Contractors may insist on High Street closure to undertake the works.
3. Junction 3 of the M25 is due an improvement via Road Investment Schemes (an allocation of funding via Designated Funds or Connect Plus DVSO) and a litter pick to target the junction should have taken place; he asked to be reminded if this had not been done.
4. The Cinder Path (Right of Way SD174) had been resurfaced during March as promised via his Members' Fund. The Clerk had been asked to confirm to the KCC Officer debris from the fire at Farningham Oak should be cleared first, the lamp post replaced second and the resurfacing of the path should follow. She had been advised that the insurance timescale for Farningham Oak clearance was unfortunately unknown, the electricity for the lamp had been disconnected and therefore would not require digging up of the path for reconnection. Accordingly, it had been agreed to resurface the Cinder Path with the allocated monies before year end.
5. A new helpline, called Kent Together, had been launched. It provides a single, convenient point of contact for anyone in the county who is in urgent need of help during the Coronavirus outbreak. It is a collaboration between KCC, central Government, District, Borough and local councils, the voluntary and community sector, the NHS, emergency services and other partners to ensure help is at hand for vulnerable people. It is also the place to report any concerns about the welfare of someone else.
6. The drains had been checked and cleaned between A20 W.J. King's roundabout and the A225 Eynsford Road. It was agreed to monitor this section of the A20 for flooding.

7. Confirmed that the Swanley Household Waste Recycling Centre had closed but waste transfer stations were still operating.
8. The Chair asked him to investigate why London Road, Swanley which had recently been resurfaced, had been dug up by Thames Water almost immediately.

4. Matters Arising and Confirmation of the Minutes of the last Meeting;

1. It was agreed Cllr. Salmon would write the monthly report; Trident would be circulated in electronic form.
2. The Chair signed the minutes of the meeting held on 4th March 2020, which had already been agreed, to confirm they were a true record.
3. Following the approval of planning application no. SE/19/03228/-CONVAR at Acer House Practice, High Street, for a minor material amendment to 19/00226/CONVAR the Clerk had written to SDC's Tree Officer confirming that the Parish Council is happy for the Acer House Practice to plant whatever size Oak tree is available. Unfortunately, the Practice were having difficulty sourcing a tree of correct size. It was agreed Cllr McGarvey ask them to get the hedge planted.
4. The Clerk had been in contact with Sevenoaks District Council regarding the burger van and gas canisters parked on the A20 London Road that appeared to have been abandoned. It was noted that one gas canister had been removed, presumed stolen.
5. Prime One Maintenance had installed a trial CCTV camera in the High Street. The Clerk had asked them to change the camera's direction. An image circulated from the camera had caused concern as vehicle registration numbers were not legible. It was agreed this matter be revisited at a later date; in the current lockdown it was hoped that incidents of anti-social behaviour might cease. The Clerk was asked to find out from the Village Hall if some parking would ever be permitted on Market Meadow, in such cases as a large wedding or funeral.
6. The Clerk was asked to follow up with Jack Wheeler at SDC whether a camera was now in situ at Donkey Lane as requested.
7. The Clerk had written to Michael Moss, Sevenoaks District Council's Licensing Officer to confirm the Parish Council have no objection to the Chequers Public House, High Street's Licensing hours to remain the same as they were under the previous licensee from 2007.
8. The Secretary, of the PCC of St Peter and St Paul Church had written to the Clerk confirming that from Monday 9th March 2020 Shand Hall had been transferred to the PCC [to be held in Trust by the Diocese of Rochester]. The Land Registry document is still awaited but they now own Shand Hall as a community building for Farningham.
9. A VAT Refund of £1992.62 had been received from HMRC.
10. A resident of Alban Crescent had written to the Clerk asking if the smaller green could be made into a car park to ease the parking situation. The Clerk had made enquiries at Sevenoaks District Council and learnt there would be a need for planning permission for a change of use, and even if granted, the cost of the work would be excessive and residents would not be guaranteed their 'own space'.

6. Planning;

1. It was agreed the following comments be sent regarding planning applications received from Sevenoaks District Council:

SE/20/00329/FUL 3 London Road - change of use from former telephone exchange B1 to place of worship D1
OBJECTION sent

SE/20/00778/ HOUSE Potager, High Street Conversion of existing integral domestic garage to a habitable room with alterations to existing fenestration SUPPORT

SE/20/00724/FUL Telephone Exchange London Road Fenestration alteration on the ground floor south elevation, at high level. SUPPORT

SE/19/02067/FUL for 14 Travellers' pitches at Hilltop Farm Proposed retention of 14 pitch private Gypsy/Traveller site GRANTED

SE/20/00858/HOUSE Kuling, Old Dartford Road, Rear extension, and loft conversion with side dormers DECISION NEEDED BEFORE 20TH APRIL

Planning decisions:

SE/20/00237/FUL Charton Vale, Eglantine Lane Erection of a hay barn REFUSED

SE/19/02067/FUL Hilltop Farm, London Road Proposed retention of 14 pitch private Gypsy/Traveller site GRANTED

Re: Planning application:

SE/14/00681/FUL Hilltop Farm, London Road Proposed extension of existing Gypsy/Traveller site to provide additional 5 pitches incorporating 5 mobile homes, 5 touring caravans and 5 utility rooms, hard standing and cesspit APPLICATION WITHDRAWN

7. District Councillor:

Cllr McGarvey reported:

1. The Local Plan remained stalled and Sevenoaks District Council were considering what actions they could now take.
2. Plans for redeveloping White Oak Leisure Centre had been approved and the swimming pool should only be shut for two weeks.

8. Highways, Footpaths and Street Lighting:

1. Cllr McGarvey had proposed a new prohibition of parking in the High Street between the Village Hall (and Acer House on the other side) on both sides of the road right down to the bridge. He suggested a one-hour 9am to 10am Mon-Fri prohibition of parking in order to stop commuters car sharing (and WJ King parking customers' cars) who clog up the village for the whole day. He had proposed it might be prudent to consider including Saturdays too (as well as WJ King unlawfully "carrying on a trade on the highway" by parking customers' cars there. To facilitate any residents, this prohibition might be staggered on opposite sides of the road, such as 8:30am to 9:30am on one side and 9:30am to 10:30am on the other, or some combination thereof. He also suggested extending the double yellow line that run from the Pied Bull to the top gate (war memorial) of church, a few metres further down to include the church lych gate, but still just on the Pied Bull/church side of the road. The lack of parked cars in the High Street during the current lockdown confirmed that residents did actually have enough room to park and so it was agreed to monitor the situation. Cllr McGarvey agreed to liaise with SDC's officers regarding W.J. King Garages trading with cars parked on the highway.
2. The County Councillor, Roger Gough, had written to the Clerk stating he been asked (along with all County Councillors in Sevenoaks District) to provide Highways with suggestions for 'larger works' on roads that are needed, on the basis there may be some extra funding available in the coming months. The Clerk had collated the list from Councillors:
 - i. At A225 Eynsford Rd / A20 junction - a roundabout
 - ii. 40mph extension of A20 to Pedham Place roundabout, and possible pedestrian traffic light
 - iii. Additional safety measures for pedestrians at A225 outside BS Motors (White Post garage) (a pedestrian crossing)
 - iv. Cats eyes/roadside lighting on the A20 to/from Button Street
 - v. Resurfacing High Street, Farningham
 - vi. Resurfacing A20 between West Kingsdown's Texaco garage and Brands Hatch entrance
 - vii. Filling of potholes and resurfacing within Farningham's boundary

- viii. Clearance of all drainage channels along our roadsides
- 3. The lamp on the wall outside South Barn, High Street had been repaired and it was agreed the invoice from Streetlights totaling £199.50 plus VAT be settled.
- 4. It was agreed the Clerk ask a resident of Button Street if the flooding is still occurring on the right on the exit from Button Street onto the A20 London Road.

9. Friends of Farningham:

Friends of Farningham would be resumed once the current lockdown due to Coronavirus is over.

10. Website:

Chris Bourne had been booked onto Accessibility training as a webinar and it was agreed to settle the invoice for £120.00 plus VAT.

11. Assets of Community Value:

Councillors agreed the Clerk should complete registration forms in order to list The Pied Bull and The Lion Hotel. It was agreed the Clerk circulates a list of additional potential assets for Councillors to consider applying to SDC for listing.

12. Finance:

- 1. It was agreed Parish Council monthly payments to be made by direct debit would include British Telecom and Eon Energy. Payments to be made by Standing Order were the Clerk’s salary, Parish Council expenses, and pension contribution to Kent County Council.
- 2. Members resolved to authorise the Schedule of Payments for April:

Kent County Council	Pension contributions (PC: £360.57 Clerk: £56.66)	£417.23
EON	Electricity Charges	£191.72
British Telecom	Telephone and Broadband	£47.83
HMRC	Tax and NI	£231.94
Mrs J Gray	Clerk’s Salary	£741.14
Mrs J Gray	Parish Council Expenses Use of House (£20) Mobile Phone contribution (£10)	£30.00
KALC	Annual Subscription	£626.86

Signed **Wednesday 6th May 2020**

The meeting closed at 9.30pm. The Annual Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 6th May 2020 at 7.00pm and the May Parish Council meeting will follow.